



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's Newsletter

Number 58. April, 1993.

BALTIMORE BECKONS.

If all goes well (and especially the Postal Service), this Newsletter should be in your hands by mid-April, at which time our convention arrangements will have been completed and our co-chair couple, Jerry and Mary Katz, ready and waiting to welcome everyone to Baltimore and its myriad pleasures.

Planning our annual event is never easy, but this time around things couldn't have gone more smoothly. With Jerry and Mary at the helm, the various special events, meal functions, and scale-connected activities have all nicely fallen into place. Best of all, as of April 1, advance registration was coming close to the turnout of previous record-breaking years, which means we just may set a new attendance mark. And that good news impels me to advise one and all that if you have not committed yourself as yet to the Baltimore festivities, it's not too late. We'll have no trouble finding room for you, but don't wait a minute longer. Pick up the phone, call Jerry or Mary at 301/279-9320, and then look forward to a great May 13 to 16 weekend. Baltimore, here we come!

(over)

AND NEXT YEAR, SAN FRANCISCO.

Timing being everything, we're obliged to select a hotel for each upcoming convention at least a year out, and that we're in the middle of doing. In mid-April, yours truly will be visiting San Francisco to personally inspect a number of hotels seeking our business, and we're pleased to tell you that several of the city's finest hostelries have quoted rates well within the limits we've paid in the past. The weekend dates in 1994 will be either May 12 to 15 or May 19 to 22, and our intention is to settle on both a preferred date and hotel prior to our Baltimore convention. We'll then be ready to give those attending our get-together this May an up-to-date report on our '94 convention plans, following which we'll pass on the same information to the entire membership in the July Newsletter.

BELATED ACCOLADES.

Each January, in the first President's Newsletter of the new year, we make sure we thank all those who rendered special services to ISASC during the previous year. However, this past January, when our wits apparently deserted us, we neglected to do so, and now we want to make amends. Thanks, thanks, and more thanks to the following stalwarts who gave generously of their time and talents to make sure that ISASC runs smoothly day in and day out:

- * JAN MACHO, officer and director, who serves as our treasurer, does all a treasurer is expected to do, and then goes that extra mile concerning matters both fiscal and otherwise.
- * STEVE GINSBERG, officer and director, who, in tandem with spouse Riva-Jill, runs our publications department, which means maintaining our inventory of library offerings, processing orders, packing and shipping, handling reorders and reprinting, and doing all else necessary to keep this valuable service going.
- * JERRY KATZ, our Society's resident metrology expert, who each and every year handles the job of answering several hundred (repeat, several hundred) outside-world inquiries about scales, ranging mostly from the ridiculous to occasionally the sublime.

- * DIANA CRAWFORTH-HITCHINS, officer and director, who not only is the editor of (and inspiration behind) EQM, but who also manages the affairs of the European Chapter, in and of itself a king-sized job.
- * BILL DONIGER, director, whose advice, and support when needed, is always provided -- cheerfully and expertly.
- * ALBERT RANGELEY, past officer and director, who in recent years (through 1992) most ably handled the post of treasurer of the European Chapter, as well as a plethora of other responsibilities.
- * SERGE CAMILLERI, director, whose knowledge and experience is always available to ISASC, especially on matters having to do with the European Chapter.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE.

We're referring to our 1993 Membership Directory, which is sent to all members each year at this time to provide a complete and current listing of members in the North American Chapter. All you need do is replace the 1992 edition (and supplements) in your directory binder with the one enclosed and you're in business. Also, if you're planning a trip abroad in the near future and are thinking of saying hello to member-collectors in Europe and/or elsewhere around the globe, don't forget that a directory of European Chapter members is yours for the asking as a complimentary service of our Society.

FISCAL UPDATE.

Each April we also send to each member our latest financial statement for the year just passed, and you'll find it among the enclosures in this mailing. It's no small task to consolidate all our records and, from a mass of detail, prepare a one-page synopsis of our money matters, and credit for doing this on a timely basis belongs to our treasurer, Jan Macho.

For those of you with an eye for figures, please note that our financial condition has never been better. Our equity position at the end of 1992 reached an all-time high, our San Diego convention operated in the black (thank you, Dale Goldman), our publication sales were substantial and showed a net return of almost \$1,500, and our Benefactors Program ("Donations") exceeded our \$9,000 goal by more than \$1,500. The bottom line: Our revenue substantially exceeded our expenses, and we're in quite a healthy state.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BENEFACITOR PROGRAM.

The most appropriate subject to cover, following our financial report, is an update on our Benefactor Program, now that its second year is coming to a close. This year, 70 members participated (compared to 66 last year), and this year the proceeds were almost the same as last year. We can't say too much about the generosity of the 70 members who were so supportive, at the same time expressing the hope that they'll continue that way in the future and will be joined by other members who become aware of our continuing need. In our July mailing, as we did last year, we'll provide a thank-you list of current Benefactors, simply because we think they very much deserve recognition.

SCALES FOR SALE.

Every so often, one of our members finds the need to dispose of his or her collection, and this is what happened recently with the Jervis Swannack collection. Jervis and his wife, June, have been long-standing members from Beloit, Wisconsin, and their collection comprises at least 150 scales, many scoops, and a large number of assorted weights. Regretfully, Jervis incurred a stroke some months ago, and he and June have decided to dispose of their collection. If any members are interested, they should call June Swannack at 608/362-3903. June has a set of photographs that gives an overview of their collection, and she's willing to send them to whomever is interested.

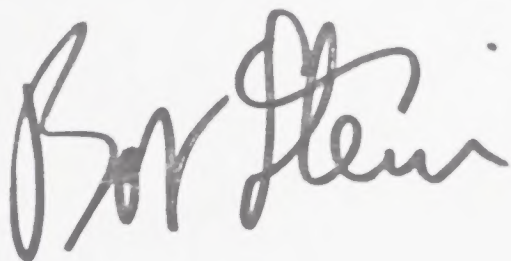
MISCELLANY.

** On April 8, yours truly will deliver a talk to the Collectors Club of Chicago, a small but elite group of collectors who, in the main, are philatelists, but whose interests extend to postal history, postal artifacts, and anything else postal-related. My subject (you guessed it) will be postal scales, and my talk will be animated by a display of 25 to 30 scales showing the diversity of principle, style and design that characterizes scales used to mail letters and parcels.

** You may recall that when we produced A Retrospective of Scale Catalogs, we advised our members that we were printing a total of 150. That we did, and the good news is that our sales to date just hit the 100 mark. It seems the publication hit a responsive chord among our members, and we can only suggest to those who as yet have not purchased a copy (\$30) that the time to do so is now. It's only a matter of time before the remaining 50 will be sold and most likely not reproduced again. To order one, use the order form attached to the library list sent you in January, or simply send me a check, payable to ISASC, with a short note specifying your needs.

And that last bit of news brings this Newsletter to a close. Convention time is fast approaching, and we're looking forward to seeing many of you in Baltimore. And as a reminder, if you're likely to experience a change of heart about attending the convention, it's not too late. Just call Jerry Katz at 301/279-9320, and he'll do the rest.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Stein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "S".

